

HALIFAX metro®



An alarming set of crimes

Halifax 'Pillowcase Bandits' charged in sophisticated break and enter ring

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Chopper loses control

Sea king helicopters have been grounded after an incident at CFB Shearwater

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Glee star's autopsy out

Cory Monteith overdosed on combination of alcohol and heroin, coroner finds

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DELAET BLOOMER

HE'S PAID HIS DUES. NOW GRAHAM DELAET WILL BE THE SOLE CANADIAN AT THE BRITISH OPEN

PAGE 17

Project to go on despite gas leak



Pedestrians speak with officials to ascertain when the evacuation zone will be reopened after a natural gas leak on South Park Street on Tuesday. JEFF HARPER/METRO

South end. Heritage Gas says line breaks and leaks are inevitable



ANDREW RANKIN
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Heritage Gas won't delay its natural-gas line extension project after workers caused a major system break on Tuesday morning that forced the evacuation of more than 300 south-end city residents.

The company says it will investigate how a backhoe belonging to Sackville Trenching, the contractor Heritage Gas hired, managed to rip open a portion of the gas line at South Park Street and Fenwick Street at about 9:40 a.m.

The incident forced emergency crews to cordon off and evacuate the area bordered by Tower Road to Queen Street and Victoria Road to Morris Street for more than four hours.

Alice McCarron, Heritage Gas's vice-president of marketing and business development, said as unfortunate as the incident was, breaks aren't unheard of.

It was the third major break

of the year, including Tuesday's second gas leak on Gaston Road in Dartmouth.

"Leaks and line hits are not something new for a natural-gas company," she said. "We will restore gas for those five customers who lost service and then we will continue to work."

"But we will do a full investigation with the contractor to determine what the actual cause was, so we can assess why it happened."

Company crews took about an hour and a half to stop the south-end leak. Meanwhile emergency responders worked to get people out of their residences and offices.

About 200 Workers' Compensation Board employees had gathered at the Atlantic Superstore parking lot on Barrington Street an hour after the leak, after being evacuated from their offices on Fenwick and South Park streets.

Residents were eventually allowed back in at about 2:30 p.m., about an hour after power was restored to the 7,300 customers who had lost electricity.

"It was a major incident, a two-inch main had burst.... That's why we evacuated the public," said Halifax Regional Fire Chief Doug Trussler.

More coverage, page 3

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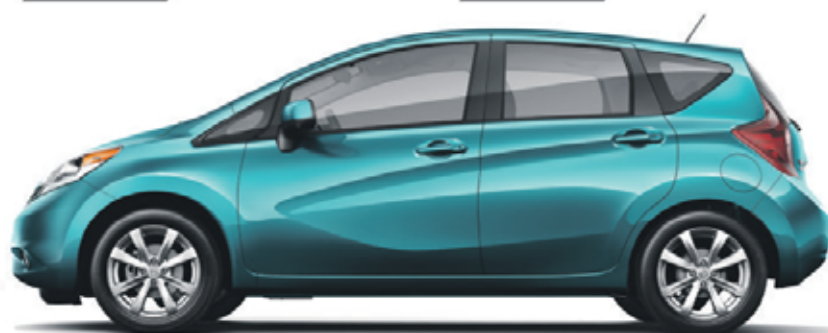
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2 gas leaks in 1 day quite the 'ordeal' for residents

South Park and Fenwick streets.

Evacuation causes inconvenience for some, especially seniors with limited mobility



ANDREW RANKIN
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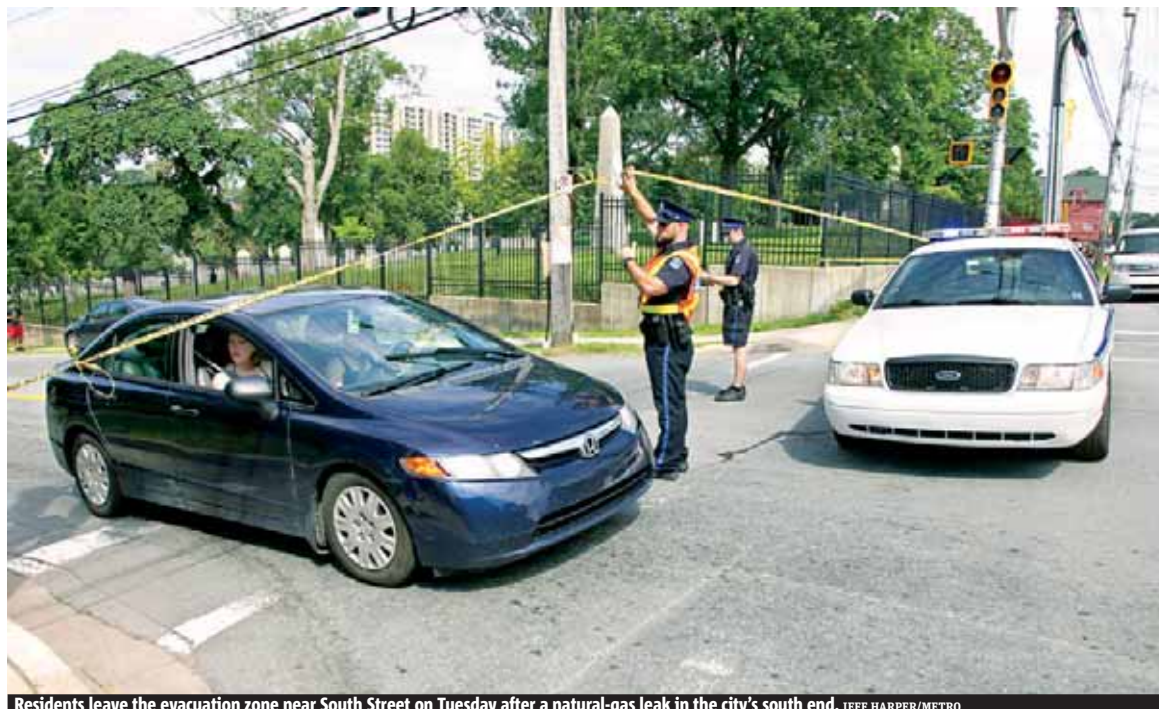
Laverne McGuigan and her husband, Michael, would prefer to forget about their Tuesday ordeal.

A couple of weeks ago, the seniors moved into the Point Pleasant Lodge — a special-care complex on South Park Street — just after Michael, 64, received a kidney transplant.

They admit they were more than a little rattled to be among more than 300 people who were evacuated from their homes in the south end of the city after a backhoe caused a major leak on one of Heritage Gas's natural-gas lines on South Park and Fenwick streets.

"It's very concerning," she said. "It's flammable gas and what's preventing this from happening again? There could be an explosion next time."

Laverne, 60, one of the luckier ones in her building with good mobility, said she was able to leave her apartment with her husband without much trouble. He



Residents leave the evacuation zone near South Street on Tuesday after a natural-gas leak in the city's south end. JEFF HARPER/METRO

had been sleeping before the evacuation.

"It was a bit of an ordeal, that's for sure, walking down four flights of stairs," she said. "Other people had to walk down five or six or eight flights of stairs. Some of these people are sick."

They and the rest of the evacuees waited for more than four hours to return to their homes. Now she says she's

Worried

"How can you not be worried after this?"

Laverne McGuigan, one of more than 300 south-end Halifax evacuees.

looking for some answers.

"I just want to be reassured that this won't happen again," she said.

So far this year, there have been three major breaks on Heritage Gas's network of nat-

ural-gas lines.

Peter MacWilliam was one of about 200 Workers' Compensation Board employees who were evacuated from their Fenwick Street and South Park Street offices.

Though frustrated that he couldn't get his car, which he left behind inside the Fenwick Medical Centre for more than four hours, he said he's thankful that no one was hurt.

In the end, MacWilliam, who has worked at the location since 1988, was good-natured about the incident.

"It's never happened before," he said. "Accidents happen."

Dartmouth area also evacuated

HRM's second gas leak of the day occurred at the top of Gaston Road in Dartmouth on Tuesday when a broken pipe forced police to evacuate dozens of residents.

A call came at 1:20 p.m. about the leak, and in about 30 minutes, Halifax regional fire announced that Heritage Gas had it stopped.

"It sounded like a windstorm, really," said Taylor Michaud, who was working on a waterline when the pipe broke.

"It still smells really bad," Michaud said at about 2 p.m.

Alice McCarron, vice-president of marketing for Heritage Gas, said contractors, who were working on

water and sewer pipes, hit one of the gas lines and ruptured it.

"But they pinched the line almost immediately," McCarron said, preventing more gas from escaping.

Lines of police cars, fire trucks and a Nova Scotia Power truck were parked along the steep road where people gathered in the shade of trees.

Charles Corbin clutched his cat, Cuddle, in his arms and waited to be told when he could go back into his apartment building.

Soon after the call, a Metro Transit bus was provided so that residents could cool off. And at about 3 p.m., most

Coincidence?

"It just happens to be a bad day."

Alice McCarron, vice-president of marketing for Heritage Gas, on two gas leaks in one day.

residents were allowed back in their homes and power was restored.

Earlier Tuesday, hundreds of people were evacuated and power was shut down to thousands in south-end Halifax due to a major gas leak Heritage Gas says was caused by a broken pipe.

"It's actually a very rare occurrence," McCarron said.

HALEY RYAN/METRO



Firefighters investigate a natural-gas leak on Gaston Road in Dartmouth on Tuesday afternoon. JEFF HARPER/METRO

MacIntosh inquiry. Accuser says MacKay is 'last glimmer of hope'

A man who says Ernest Fenwick MacIntosh sexually abused him as a boy says the appointment of Peter MacKay as federal justice minister is the "last glimmer of hope" that answers may be forthcoming as to why the case was bungled so badly.

The man, who can only be identified as D.R.S. due to a publication ban, said he's basing his belief on his dealings with MacKay as he went to him with concerns around the handling of the case over the years.

"I'm hoping, I would say he is the best one that we could have had in that position. I don't think there could be a better person," D.R.S. said. "He has been the politician who has put the most work into it."

The Cape Breton Post requested an interview with MacKay on the matter, and department spokeswoman Jen-



Peter MacKay THE CANADIAN PRESS

nifer Gearey indicated he is still being briefed and can't comment.

MacIntosh's convictions of 17 counts of abusing boys in the Strait of Canso area in the 1970s were overturned on appeal on the basis that it took too long to take him to trial.

CAPE BRETON POST

Diversion. Flight makes an unscheduled landing due to unruly passenger

Police say an overnight flight from Vancouver to London was diverted to Halifax Stanfield International Airport on Tuesday morning after a passenger began making threats to other people on the plane, including flight attendants.

RCMP spokesman Cpl. Scott MacRae said the Air Canada flight was flying over Newfoundland when the pilot decided to turn the plane around and have it land at the

Facts on the tarmac

No one was injured, and police say alcohol isn't believed to have played a factor.

Halifax airport. Police were called at 4:18 a.m., and the plane landed just after 5 a.m.

A 51-year-old man was taken into custody and sent to hospital for assessment. METRO

Truro

Cash-strapped raceway wins stay

The horses will keep running at Truro Raceway until at least Sept. 2. The Nova Scotia Provincial Exhibition Commission's board of directors has agreed to delay the closure of the cash-strapped track.

The board's decision is based on a commitment made by the Truro Harness Horse Owners Association and the Nova Scotia Harness Racing Industry Association.

Both groups say money is available to enable the commission to cover raceway wages and race purse expenses in the interim.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

À Montreal!

Tanker leaves Cape Breton coast

A large petroleum tanker ship that was anchored off Cape Breton for repairs has resumed its voyage from Finland to Montreal.

The 225-metre Palva, which is registered in Finland, departed on Monday afternoon after repairs to several separate electrical systems, which were related to an auxiliary engine on board the vessel.

The ship had been anchored about 13 kilometres northeast of Sydney harbour.

The vessel was carrying petroleum but there was no spill, said Transport Canada. CAPE BRETON POST



Horsepower off sun power

Curious onlookers gaze at the MS Turanor, the world's largest solar-powered ship, which docked in Halifax on Tuesday. The vessel is powered solely by 500 square metres of solar panels. EVAN MCINTYRE/FOR METRO

Alleged 'Pillowcase bandits' charged

Sophisticated thefts. Police say crimes will stay with victims for a 'long time'



HALEY RYAN
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Three Halifax men who police say called themselves the "Pillowcase Bandits" are facing a total of 170 charges in a major break-and-enter ring.

After a four-month investigation, the men were arrested on Monday in relation to nearly 30 break-and-enters across Nova Scotia.

"In 18 years this is the largest break-and-enter investigation I've been involved in," said RCMP Sgt. Paul Robinson of the integrated general investigation section on Tuesday.

"They weren't spontan-

eous; they were well thought out. The level of sophistication was very high."

Robinson said the break-ins occurred between February and April in Lunenburg and Colchester Counties, as well as "outlying parts" of HRM.

The investigation began in April when the trio were arrested during a Tantallon break-and-enter. Robinson said items in their car, as well as a forensic analysis of their cell phones, led police to believe they were responsible for the crimes.

He said police had noticed a pattern of daytime break-ins with expensive items stolen and pillowcases taken to haul loot away.

Tools like Google Street View and the real-estate listing MLS were used to identify targets, Robinson said.

"Their primary goal was to target houses without alarms," he said. "They were able to look online and pick

a ... street and look at the house and determine that there's no alarm sticker."

Robinson said most of the charges are in excess of \$5,000, but a few relate to \$20,000 worth of electronics and jewelry.

Police say nothing can be returned to the victims because all the items were sold via pawn shops or online ads right away.

"In a lot of cases there were family heirlooms ... things that just can't be replaced," Robinson said.

The home is "pretty much sacred" with courts and society, Robinson said, and many elderly people or children had their rooms "ransacked" during the break-and-enters.

"Someone violating their home ... this will be with them for a long time," Robinson said.

The three men are scheduled to be back in court Wednesday after being arraigned on Tuesday.

What they're facing

The Halifax men face charges of participation in a criminal organization, conspiring to commit break-and-enter, trafficking property obtained by crime, as well as:

- **Cory Jollimore:** 28 counts of break-and-enter and 28 counts of possession of stolen property
- **Jason Marriott:** 25 counts of break-and-enter and 25 counts of possession of stolen property
- **Ryan Jeffries Marriott:** 29 counts of break-and-enter and 29 counts of possession of stolen property

Police are expecting more arrests.

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HMCS Toronto crew back on Friday

The crew of HMCS Toronto will be returning to Halifax this week, but the warship itself is staying in the Arabian Sea.

On Wednesday, a group of Royal Canadian Navy sailors will board a plane at CFB Greenwood to replace the crew presently aboard HMCS Toronto.

The ship's initial crew was deployed on Jan. 14, and sailors are scheduled to



Mission accomplished: HMCS Toronto is getting a new crew.
ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

arrive at Halifax Stanfield International Airport on Friday night.

"HMCS Toronto's crew has seized and destroyed over a ton of narcotics during her deployment so far, making Canadians and the international community safer," vice-admiral Mark Norman, commander of the Royal Canadian Navy, said in a release.

HMCS Toronto was de-

ployed to the Middle East in support of Operation Artemis, an international effort. The ship and crew were tasked with detecting, deterring and protecting against terrorist activity by patrolling and conducting security operations.

The new crew will be drawn from HMCS St. John's, also a Halifax-based frigate.

METRO



Canada's Sea King helicopters — one of which made an unscheduled landing near a shopping complex in Bedford last year — has been grounded after one of them crashed at CFB Shearwater. JEFF HARPER/METRO FILE

Sea Kings grounded

Troubled fleet.

Decision taken after accident at CFB Shearwater

Investigation underway

3

The number of military investigators who have been assigned to determine what happened.

Canada's fleet of Sea King helicopters has been grounded indefinitely after one of them tipped forward and smashed its five rotor blades on the tarmac at Canadian Forces Base Shearwater, the military said on Tuesday.

Lt-Col. James Hawthorne, wing commander at the base, said none of the four crew members was hurt in the accident, which happened late Monday night.

"We're suspending all flying operations until we get an indication of what's going on and a higher authority has made a call on how we're going to proceed with flying the Sea King in the next couple of days," he said at a news conference.

The helicopter landed after a five-hour training mission, taxied to a hangar, stopped and tipped forward while the rotors were still spinning, causing each of the 10-metre blades to break into flying pieces that dented walls and broke glass on surrounding buildings, Hawthorne said.

He said the pilot told him the accident unfolded quickly.

"He said it's the fastest thing he'd ever seen occur in a helicopter. It caught him by surprise just like it caught everybody by surprise."

Damage to the helicopter is extensive, Hawthorne said, and the military will have to assess whether it can continue flying.

Attempts by the federal government to replace the 50-year-old Sea Kings have been repeatedly delayed. The military is still waiting for new helicopters from Sikorsky Aircraft Corp., which was selected nine years ago to supply 28 helicopters.

Hawthorne said he couldn't answer questions on when the replacements would arrive, but added he doesn't believe the age of the Sea Kings was a factor in the accident.

"The Sea King has provided incredible service for 50 years as of the end of this month. It will provide incredible service in the future." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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News in pictures

**1 Egypt.** Seven more die in clashes

A supporter of Egypt's ousted president tries to beat the heat. Clashes overnight left at least seven dead, authorities said Tuesday. **NASSER SHIYOUKHI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

2 Russia. Pussy Riot back at it

Russian band Pussy Riot have released their first music video since three members went to prison last year. **ALEXANDER ZEMLIANICHENKO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

3 Gay rights. Activist slaughtered

Prominent gay-rights activist Eric Ohena Lembembe has been tortured and killed in Cameroon, Human Rights Watch said. **ERASING 76 CRIMES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

4 NSA scandal. Snowden stuck

Ecuador's Foreign Minister Ricardo Patino said his nation hopes Russia will grant Edward Snowden temporary asylum, saying conditions do not permit his travel to Latin America. **RODRIGO BUENDIA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES**

5 India floods. Thousands missing

More than 5,700 people missing since floods devastated northern India last month are being presumed dead, top officials said Tuesday. **ANUPAM NATH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Heroin, alcohol killed Glee star: Coroner

Glee star Cory Monteith spent his last evening out on the town with friends before returning to his Vancouver hotel room alone, where he took heroin and died early Saturday, police and a coroner say.

"There's absolutely nothing, no evidence to suggest this is anything other than the most sad and tragic accident," coroner Barb McIntock said in a news release after her office concluded an autopsy and toxicology tests.

She said the coroners' investigation will continue. Police say the unanswered questions McIntock's office

will determine include the levels of alcohol and heroin in Monteith's system and whether the 31-year-old star was the victim of a bad batch of heroin, something which turns up from time to time in Vancouver.

But Const. Brian Montague said their investigation is done.

He said the two women and another man Monteith were with that night co-operated fully with police.

"We're pretty confident we know where they were or what they were doing the night before," he said.

"There were no signs of a struggle or a robbery. There was evidence in the room that was consistent with a drug overdose."

Monteith played the role of football player and singer Finn Hudson on the popular TV series Glee. Before becoming an actor, he worked as a Walmart greeter in Nanaimo, B.C., as well as a taxi driver, school-bus driver and roofer.

He was also an avid supporter of the Project Limelight Society, a Vancouver charity that offers a theatre program to at-risk youth.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Cory Monteith THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

From a self-imposed exile, train engineer talks through lawyer

Lac-Mégantic disaster.

Lawyer dispels claim that Tom Harding is under 'police control'

The train engineer at the centre of the Lac-Mégantic disaster investigation is emotionally "devastated" by the tragic event, his lawyer says.

Tom Harding has vanished from public sight, and his lawyer's comments Tuesday shed some light on how he has responded to the tragedy.

Lawyer Thomas Walsh said his client has been staying at an undisclosed location, on his advice, to avoid the constant barrage of journalists at his Eastern Townships home.

Walsh said he's hoping to get Harding psychological help.

Edward Burkhardt, the head of the rail company, had told reporters last week that his engineer was under "po-

Role in accident

lice control" as the subject of a criminal investigation. "Nothing (of the sort)," Walsh said Tuesday. He said Harding has not been arrested or charged with any crime stemming from the accident.

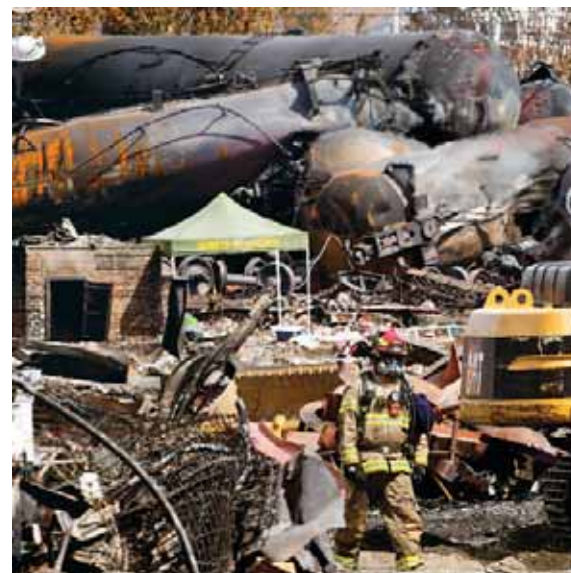
"He's talking through his hat, as far as I can see."

He is also named as one of the defendants in an attempted class-action suit.

One question is whether the veteran railman applied the appropriate number of hand-brakes before ending his shift.

He's talking through his hat, as far as I can see."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



A fireman walks through debris Tuesday at the site of the train derailment and fire in Lac-Mégantic, Que., that left 37 people confirmed dead and another 13 missing and presumed dead. **RYAN REMIOWZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Oakville, Ont.

Father charged over baby in hot car

Police have charged a Toronto father with child abandonment after an infant girl was left in a hot car in Oakville, west of Toronto, on Sunday.

Halton Region police said the nine-month-old was left unattended in a parking lot

for about 10 to 15 minutes.

Police said the baby was seen sweating profusely and crying but was OK after she was examined by paramedics and released to her mother.

When an in-store announcement at Home Depot drew the father back to the vehicle, police say a group of angry people "berated" him.

The father has been released pending a court appearance. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Everyday anxiety

Renowned painter Alex Colville dies

Celebrated painter Alex Colville, whose meticulously crafted scenes of everyday life established him as one of Canada's most well-known artists, has died at 92.

His son, Graham, said his father passed away Tuesday at his home in Wolfville, N.S.

Colville began his career as a military artist and documented troops landing on D-Day. Even his most serene works were infused with a sense of unease, as he viewed the world as inherently dangerous and full of anxiety.

Colville's 1953 piece "Man on Verandah" sold for \$1.29 million at an auction in 2010, setting a record for a work by a living Canadian artist.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



In this image taken from video, two lionfish are shown in an aquarium at the Nova Southeastern University Oceanographic Center in Dania Beach, Fla. Desperate for some kind of control over their populations in the wild, Florida this year enlisted volunteers and amateurs to go after the fish not native to the Atlantic. SUZETTE LABOY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Invasion of the lionfish: Voracious predator spreads

Into the deep. Divers are being encouraged to kill the 25-cm long, one-pound nuisances

The invasive lionfish that crowds coral reefs and preys on native fish in the Atlantic's shallower waters is such a problem that divers in Florida and the Caribbean are encouraged to capture and eat them whenever they can.

Lionfish, which have venomous spines, are a well-documented problem in Atlantic coral reefs, where the 25-centimetre-long, one-pound invaders from the tropical parts of the Pacific and Indian oceans live without predators and eat other fish voraciously. What's slowly coming into view is how deep into the ocean their invasion has spread.

Researchers and wildlife officials worry that lionfish may undo efforts aimed at rebuilding populations of native predators such as groupers and snappers.

Free-for-all

Divers are encouraged to capture and eat any lionfish they encounter to protect reefs and native marine life already burdened by pollution, over-fishing and the effects of climate change.

tors such as groupers and snappers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A buck a call? CRTC rejects pay phone hike, questions future in smartphone age

Canada's telecom regulator is hanging up on Bell Canada's bid to increase the cost of using a pay phone. The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission has rejected a request by Bell to charge people more to use coin-operated land lines, a familiar fixture of the pre-cell-phone age.

"This is, in our view, a victory for today," said Janet Lo, legal counsel for the Public Interest Advocacy Centre. "We're very pleased that the commission stood up to Bell's request for the pay phone rate increase, which was in our view not warranted."

The CRTC is also considering whether to take steps to prevent the company from pulling less profitable pay phones out of under-served communities.

Bell and its subsidiary Bell Aliant Inc. had asked for permission to boost the price of a local call to as much as \$1, compared with

Going the way of the dodo?

The CRTC has launched consultations on the role pay phones play in Canada. The regulator will also ask Canadians whether phone companies should be prohibited from removing the last remaining pay phone in a community.

the current price of 50 cents, and to double the cost of using a credit or debit card at a pay phone to \$2.

In their submissions, the companies said that without a rate increase, they would be forced to get rid of their least profitable pay phones. Pay phone usage has been steadily dropping as more people turn to cellphones, Bell argued.

But the CRTC countered by saying unprofitable coin-operated phones would likely end up being removed anyway, regardless of cost.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

From print to digital

Sun Media closes papers, cuts jobs

Sun Media Corp. is slashing 360 jobs and shutting down 11 publications across the country, saying it needs to invest more heavily in digital news to lure in younger readers.

In addition to job cuts, the newspaper publisher is closing down eight community newspapers and its 24 Hours free daily papers in Ottawa, Calgary and Edmonton.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

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NOT EVERY DOG HAS ITS DAY

The daily news is filled with reports of racism, sexism, ageism and absurdism, but a large faction of this country's population silently faces a form of discrimination I like to call anti-caninism. That's right, people who hate dogs. You know the type; distinctly anti-social, but ultra-sensitive to child safety, hypothetical allergies or the physically challenged, as long as the disability doesn't require canine assistance.

Wherever dog owners gather, there is inevitably, some scowling curmudgeon hiding in the bushes taking video of puppies peeing on grass. Oh no! Now, we've exposed the children! For centuries, scientists have been mystified by the various causes of disease, but 'Pooch Patrol' has connected it all to dog urine. Parents beware: Your local park has not been sterilized for your kids' protection.

We belong to a culture spoiled by the freedom to dismiss ourselves from all responsibility. Parents use children as the ex-



JUST SAYIN'
Mike Benhaim
Guest columnist

cuse by which to perpetuate their own ignorance, and we spout improperly learned notions as universal truths.

Now, I'm not implying that the enlightened 19-year-old at 7-Eleven is not thoroughly versed in Canadian law but I recently entered one while holding my 10-pound Maltese.

Apparently, just having a dog exempted me from the basic courtesies afforded to the general public, let alone patrons.

"Mister, you can't have that dog in here!" She told me. When I questioned the hostility, she said, "It's against the law." (Gasp!) Am I a criminal now? Naturally, I probed further. "What about service dogs?" Apparently, our crackerjack legal scholar was ill-prepared for such meticulous cross-examination, as she responded with "Huh?" I specified, "What about seeing-eye dogs?"

And it was then that my clever foe truly earned the right to wear that plastic name tag by delivering a stunning rebuttal of

"It never happens."

Well then folks, I guess the law is clear. Only it really isn't.

Canada's Animal Pedigree Act prohibits animals from direct contact with food preparation. Beyond that, every province, municipality and establishment owner has their own unique set of rules.

Parks, malls and department stores can legally allow your dogs, only many of them choose not to. One manager actually admitted that it depended largely on personality. That of the dog AND its owners.

Hound-friendly malls and patios exist throughout Canada, but all it takes one anti-canine complaint to spoil the show. It's never about them. These are just selfless citizens doing their part to protect the helpless from your vicious Chihuahuas.

Friends, think of dogs as babies. They can be cute, and at times disgusting, but they are part of the population and deserve to share the world with everyone else. So let's exercise a little tolerance and open public places to man's best friend.

Paul Sullivan will return July 31.

ZOOM

They have a proven track record



SOLENT NEWS

Longest Lego train track built

A Lego fan was on the right track when he assembled 93,072 plastic bricks to make the world's longest toy train circuit. Henrik Ludvigsen from Roskilde, Denmark, and a team of 80 others spent 18 months designing the track that measures 4,000 metres, which has earned him a Guinness World Record.

METRO

Lego land

"I was cleaning out a room in our house when I found all my old blue tracks. While my wife was asleep on the couch I went off to surf the Internet and got this crazy idea that I wanted to build the world's longest Lego train track."

Henrik Ludvigsen, 43, technology officer



"I'm proud of what I've achieved. It was a dream come true, a dream founded more than 35 years ago." Ludvigsen spent some \$75,000 on the feat. SOLENT NEWS

A long ride

3 hours, 22 minutes

is the time it took for a Lego toy train to complete a lap of the 4,000-metre-long route.

In 1934, Danish toy inventor Ole Kirk Christiansen named his new company Lego, formed from the Danish words "Leg Godt" meaning "play well." In Latin 'lego' means "I study" or "I put together."

Clickbait



ANDREW FIFIELD
andrew.fifield@metronews.ca

Excellent news! The Zen offered up by Explore.org's livestream of brown bears chilling in an Alaska river last summer is back for another year. Keep that, and perhaps these others, open in a tab for a bit of nature in your workday.



LONDON LOOKS/FICKR

Puffin Burrow

If your tastes are more avian than ursine, rest easy because the bears aren't the only stars in Explore.org's stable. Get voyeuristic by creeping on a pair of nesting Atlantic puffins off the coast of Maine. (explore.org)

Kitty Cams

OK, fine. This isn't a livestream. But they do have a wildly entertaining first-person collection of noted cat hi-jinx like peeking in neighbourhood

windows, harassing lizards, giving guff to dogs and keeping the stoop possum-free. (kittycams.uga.edu)

Vancouver Aquarium

It's hot. You're stuck at work. Cool off with critters that know how to enjoy the life aquatic. Sea otters, penguins and belugas bring the cute. Jellyfish are standing by in case you need something to synch your Pink Floyd albums to. (vanaqua.org)

Letters

RE: Jenny's Got A View, And I've Got One Too, published July 16

I am neither a fan of The View nor a fan of Jenny McCarthy, however I was surprised and appalled by your opinion of the subject matter of a possible relationship between vaccinations and autism.

My question to you, when you have read your articles to form your opinion around the subject matter of vaccination in relationship to autism, have you considered your sources? Were the surveys that you may have read funded by the pharmaceutical big businesses?

Have you read any articles from

parents who noticed a considerable change in their child after a vaccination? Have you completed a thorough investigation? Based on your comments, I expect that you have not.

I believe that vaccinations are meant to help the community at large, and as we all know they have saved us from much disease and heartache. Is it possible that we may need to revisit or review our ingredients or timeline to vaccinations?

I think that it is disrespectful for individuals with no experience or thorough knowledge to make judgements on others based on their experiences just because their experience differs from your own.

Valerie Doyle

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU:
Send us your comments: halifaxletters@metronews.ca

Conjuring up a number of familiar horror themes

New movie.

Supernatural flicks aren't anything new but the creepy cranks continue to kill at the box office and on screen



IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

The Conjuring, the new film from Saw co-creator James Wan, plays like a mash-up of The Exorcist and a particularly spooky episode of Ghost Hunters. Based on true events, it follows one of the most devilishly famous cases of real life paranormal investigators Ed and Lorraine Warren.

The ghostly action begins when the Warrens (Patrick Wilson and Vera Farmiga), self described "demonologists, ghost hunters ... and kooks," are called in to investigate the haunting of a rambling old farm house purchased by the Perron family, Roger (Ron Livingston) and Carolyn (Liv Taylor) and their five daughters.

The house is creepy. Doors slam, someone or something goes the girls while they sleep, clocks stop at 3:07 precisely and the smell of rotten meat hangs in the air.

It's spooky stuff, but it's not the only supernatural case the Warrens investigated that went on to find notoriety on the big screen.

The Haunting in Connecticut breathes the same



The Conjuring has some spooky stunts. HANDOUT

air as The Town that Dreaded Sundown, Death Tunnel or any movie involving evil spirits, a haunted house, an old aboriginal cemetery or former insane asylum.

The film takes its story from the much documented life experience of Carmen Snedeker and her family who were tormented by evil forces after moving into a reconverted funeral home in Southington, Connecticut.

In the real life 1986 case the Warrens were called in and declared the Snedeker house to be crawling with demons, the result of former

funeral home workers practicing necrophilia on the site.

How accurate was the movie?

"I was also told about scratching on the walls, blood and seances," Lorraine Warren told MyRecordJournal.com. "That isn't the type of things that were occurring within the house at all. The movie is very, very loosely based on the actual investigation."

The eerie couple's most notorious inquiry occurred at 112 Ocean Avenue in Amityville, Long Island.

The paranormal experiences of the Lutz family, who claim to have been terrorized by supernatural forces after moving into a large Dutch Colonial house where Ronald DeFeo, Jr. shot and killed six members of his family, came to be known as The Amityville Horror.

It has been the subject of 10 movies, a number of books and was a memorable case for Lorraine Warren.

"The case itself has affected our personal lives more than any other case we've ever worked on in 54 years of research," she said.

Animated



Turbo

Director. David Soren

Stars. Ryan Reynolds, Paul Giamatti and Samuel L. Jackson

Ryan Reynolds voices Turbo, a snail obsessed with car racing. His need for speed is fulfilled after inhaling engine fumes that rev up his metabolism to the tune of 200 m.p.h., a talent that earns him a spot at the Indianapolis 500. The movie is amiable, with beautiful animation and great voice work from Paul Giamatti and Samuel L. Jackson. Too bad it's saddled with a dullish script that's as uninteresting as escargot without garlic and butter. It feels padded with music and montages and moves at a snail's pace, which seems like it should be appropriate for this movie, but really isn't.

RICHARD CROUSE

2 SCENE

They've got creative freedom? Release the Hounds

Calling from Milwaukee, getting ready to perform with her sister as part of the Court Yard Hounds, Martie Maguire sounds totally at ease.

"I'm just trying to keep my kids awake, because they want to come up on stage with me and do some Irish dancing, so I was like, 'Well, it's at 10 o'clock tonight, I don't know,'" she says.

These aren't merely the practical musings of just any mother. From the mid-'90s to the early 2000s, there were few names bigger in country music than the Dixie Chicks,

composed of Maguire, her sister Emily Robison and Natalie Maines. After controversial comments about then-U.S. President George W. Bush turned them into industry pariahs, Maguire and Robison went on to form the Court Yard Hounds, who will release their sophomore album, Amelita, on Tuesday.

"We didn't have to be answering to anything, or writing certain kinds of songs our fans are used to listening to. Creatively, it kind of opens the doors to whatever."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Sisters Emily Robison, left, and Martie Maguire of the Court Yard Hounds. BRUCE GILBERT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jane Lynch explains low-key divorce

Jane Lynch wants to make it clear that while she is in fact divorcing wife Lara Embry, the split is not as big of a deal as tabloid reports have made it out to be. "It's not dramatic. It's not a horrible thing. It's something that we're dealing with," Lynch tells Larry King in an interview. "It's two people who just decided it's better to go apart than stay together."



Jane Lynch

Twitter



@RedHourBen

Making sure to sit on couch at least 2 hours today so my muscles won't be shocked by the rest day.



@justinbieber

It isn't just about music & performing 2 me. I care about all of u. I want to make the world better with this gift. Thought u should know :)



@lenadunham

My therapist is looking goooooood.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES



Fergie ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Fergie looking to change both of her names

Just in time for the arrival of her first child with husband Josh Duhamel, Fergie is reportedly looking to change both of her names. The pop singer filed a petition in L.A. to legally change her full name from Stacy Ann Ferguson to Fergie Duhamel,

since Fergie is "the first name which she is commonly and professionally known as, and has been for many years," the petition states, according to E! News. But she'll have to wait until Aug. 16 to find out if the court is cool with it.

The Word

Kristen Stewart is not grimacing with Michael Pitt

Too-cool-for-school couple Kristen Stewart and Michael Pitt probably aren't sighing loudly while they attempt to gather the enthusiasm to have sex with one another.

Rumours swirled earlier in the week that Stewart may have found a new leading man in former Boardwalk Empire star Michael Pitt since meeting at Paris Fashion Week.

"Kristen's not over Rob but she's getting there, and Michael's helping her through it," a source tells The Sun.

"She vowed to throw herself into work and be single this summer, but when she met Michael last week, they hit it off." And the two apparently have a lot in common,



according to the source: "They both hate the spotlight and are smart bookworm types."

But not so, says Pitt's rep, telling E! News, "While we do not comment on our clients' personal lives, please know that there is absolutely no truth whatsoever to this rumour that Michael Pitt and Kristen Stewart are dating." **PAT HEALY**



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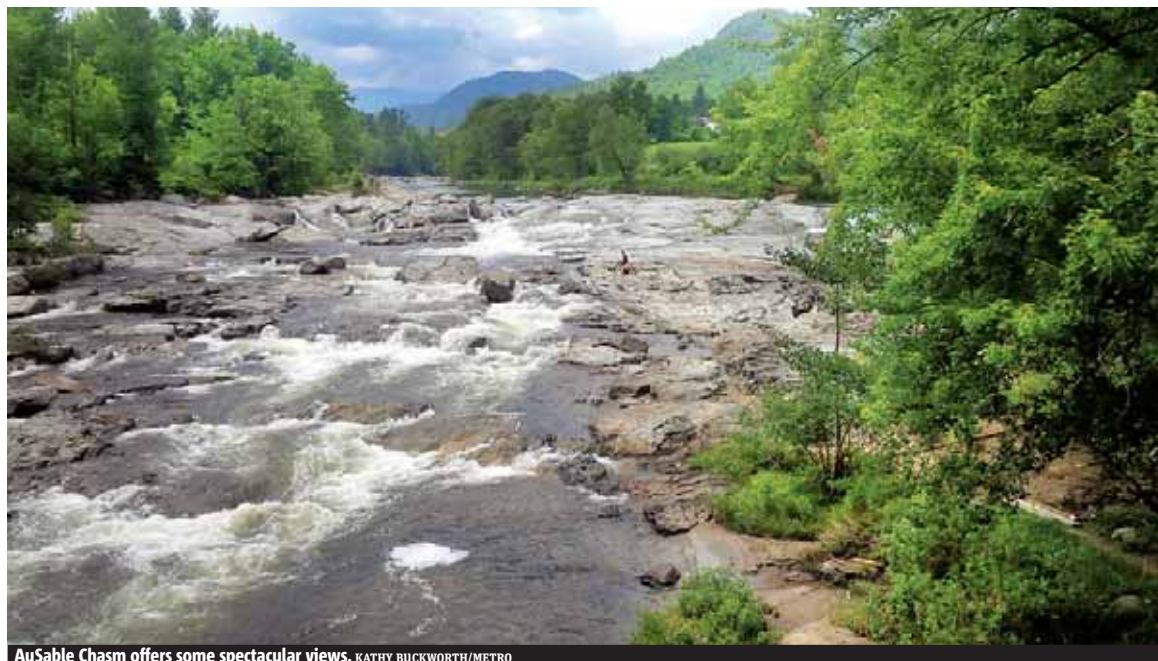
Family fun. Lake Placid mixes natural beauty and a laid-back vibe to make the perfect getaway for stressed out city dwellers

KATHY BUCKWORTH
life@metronews.ca

Busy families looking to unwind, unplug and undo their daily demands will instantly appreciate the aptly titled Lake Placid, with calm waters showcasing a shoreline dotted with "Great Camps", built in a bygone era when wealthy families from New York City hauled their families up north to escape the city heat and bask in the beautiful mountains of the Adirondacks.

The town of Lake Placid has a '50s feel to it, partly because of the protected park status, and partly because the town embraces the quirky feel of a mountain holiday, year round. It's hard to travel more than 100 feet down the main street, or anywhere in the surrounding area, without tripping over an Adirondack chair (which Ontarians call Muskoka Chairs).

Built five years ago very much in the style of the Great Camps, the luxurious Lake Placid Lodge has become the place to stay, with celebrities and other New York notables on their preferred customer list. The Artisan Restaurant has also become the "unofficial country club" of the many wealthy camp/luxury homeowners in the area. An award winning chef and meticulous attention to detail (not to mention a world class mixologist at the bar) combine to make an



AuSable Chasm offers some spectacular views. KATHY BUCKWORTH/METRO

extravagant dining experience.

There is a form of accommodation to fit every preference and budget.

The town and surrounding villages offer fun B&B's full of local character, like Nan and Red LaFontaine's Paradox Lodge, which features birch bark ceilings and uniquely local antiques. Cozy bedrooms feature modern bathrooms and a wonderful family cottage feel. The Lodge backs onto a bay leading into the lake, and Red's homestyle breakfasts are the perfect start to a busy day getting out to the many outdoor adventures available.

The restaurants and bars are as diverse as the lodgings, with the Brown Dog Café, a popular favourite, featuring fantastic views of Mirror Lake, where diners can watch the

If you go...

Lake Placid is located about a five-hour drive from Toronto. Visit lakeplacid.com for more information.

sun go down as canoers and kayakers glide by. During the day, it's easy to grab a fresh deli sandwich at The Little Super Market and head down to the local beach on Lake Everest in Wilmington.

A short drive away, the covered bridge in Jay (rebuilt in 2007) represents the rich history of the area, and the flat rocks that the AuSable River flows over make it the perfect spot to cool off on a hot day.

But it's not all calm in this area of the Adirondacks. Dur-

ing the winter it is the destination of choice for adventurous skiers and snowboarders, anxious to recreate runs they watched during the 1980 Olympics on Whiteface Mountain, and in the summer the hills are taken over by warrior gangs of mountain bikers. The base area around Whiteface, also with protected status, remains untouched by the usual array of condominiums, hotels, bars and restaurants, for a true mountain experience.

The AuSable Chasm is about an hour's drive from Lake Placid, and the spectacle of the chasm is as awesome as the Adventure Trail that's been developed.

Cable pulls, rappelling and swaying bridges are for the brave of heart. The Intermediate Trail offers a terrific mix of

easy strolling and heart stopping rock wall scaling.

The Wild Centre is a great stop to make on the way to or from Lake Placid, situated in Lake Tupper. This 31-acre wildlife conservation area will have the kids entertained with more than 900 live animals.

In the heart of Lake Placid, Olympic Center is home to two arenas, both famous in their own right. The figure skating arena was the site where Sonja Henie won gold during the 1932 Olympics, and the hockey arena is home to the legendary Miracle on Ice match between the Americans and the USSR. A quick look at the wall plaque reveals that the 1980 Olympics were also the year speed skater Eric Heiden won 5 gold medals and Canadian Gaetan Boucher won a silver medal.

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The To Do List

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The To Do List



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Travel tip

Don't let stormy skies deter you from deals



ON THE MOVE
Loren Christie
life@metronews.ca

Looking for a great deal to the Caribbean? The best value vacations can be found now through Nov. 30, during the Atlantic storm season. Although standard booking conditions for most airlines and tour operators do not offer compensation should bad weather ruin your vacation, there are an increasing number of hotels and resorts, tour operators and even destinations, like Bermuda or the Cayman Islands, that offer something called a hurricane guarantee.

The guarantees are designed to encourage you to book during the off-season by offering additional protections against your holiday investment. Although every guarantee is different, you will find some common

elements such as; the policy only applies if the hurricane is deemed a Category 1 or stronger by the U.S. National Hurricane Centre. It kicks in when flights have been cancelled or when a hurricane is sure to strike and it may only cover part of your loss, like the actual storm-affected days or your flight home. Generally the hotel, resort or travel provider will not charge cancellation or change fees on the interrupted vacation and will allow you to rebook for a later date. Don't expect a full refund.

If you are anxious for a cheap sun holiday and think it's worth the risk,

make sure you understand the fine print. Give your full contact details to the airline, including a local phone number, so they can contact you should an evacuation be necessary. Or consider booking through a travel agent who can take care of all of those details and advocate on your behalf if you need to make a claim on your hurricane guarantee.

If the threat of a potential hurricane is too much of a headache for you, visit the islands in the southern Caribbean such as Barbados, Aruba or Trinidad and Tobago, which are far less prone to extreme weather.



Hurricane guarantees can seem appealing in storm season. ISTOCK

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One-dish pasta makes it easy to keep it simple — and get out of the kitchen



ROSE REISMAN
for more, visit
rosereisman.com or follow
her on twitter @rosereisman

This is a great one-dish meal that's perfect for a quick dinner. Have a large leafy salad to start. If you want a more savoury flavour, use spicy sausage.

1. Cook pasta in boiling water according to package instructions or until firm to the bite. Drain and place in serving bowl.

2. In large non-stick skillet, heat oil; sauté garlic, onions, green peppers and zucchini until tender, approximately 5 minutes.

3. Add sausage and beef; sauté just until cooked, approximately 10 minutes.

4. Add tomatoes, olives, basil and oregano; simmer for 15 minutes, until sauce thickens, stirring occasionally. Pour over pasta, and toss. **ROSE REISMAN BRINGS HOME LIGHT PASTA (ROBERT ROSE) BY ROSE REISMAN**

Ingredients

- 12 oz radiatore or penne
- 2 tsp vegetable oil
- 2 tsp crushed garlic
- 3/4 cup chopped onions
- 3/4 cup chopped sweet green peppers
- 2 cups chopped zucchini
- 6 oz sweet sausages, skinned

- and chopped
- 6 oz ground beef
- 2 1/2 cups canned or fresh tomatoes, crushed
- 1/3 cup sliced black olives
- 2 tsp dried basil
- 1 tsp dried oregano



This recipe serves eight. MARK SHAPIRO, FROM ROSE REISMAN BRINGS HOME LIGHT PASTA (ROBERT ROSE)

Drink of the Week

Lavender Sour

Beat the heat with this exquisite blend of flavours, including lime juice, lavender bitters and egg whites.

- 1.5 oz Belvedere vodka
- 0.6 oz fresh lime juice
- 3/4 oz simple syrup
- 0.3 oz egg whites
- 2 dashes of lavender bitters

Dry shake then add ice and shake again. Strain into chilled martini glass and garnish with an expressed lemon twist.



PHOTO AND RECIPE
COURTESY OF BELVEDERE VODKA

From a foot in the door to a face at a desk

Work wonders.

An expert shares his top tips on how students and new grads can get through the application process and on to the interview

MEGHAN GREAVES
TalentEgg.ca

"How do I get my foot in the door?" is just the tip of the question iceberg when starting your job hunt.

To help answer this question, we spoke with head hunting expert David Perry, who the Wall Street Journal calls the Rogue Recruiter.

Begin with clarity

Starting your job search with clarity starts with determining the top 10 to 20 employers you want to work for. Doing this is much simpler than you may think.

David recommends that you "figure out what your top three skills are that you can bring to an employer" and go from there.

Then you can search for em-



How do you plan to get that shake of the hand? ISTOCK

ployers online who are looking for these exact skills and use this to create your wish list.

Put yourself online, professionally speaking

Luckily for many Gen Ys, this is virtually a natural instinct. Yet, creating a professional online presence is where we lack skills occasionally. This may be because we don't know how to or because we're nervous that what we have to offer won't be good enough for an employer.

According to David, we shouldn't feel this way at all.

When getting online (in a professional manner), keep these three things in mind:

1. Don't let lack of experience stop you. If you don't have a ton of "real world" work experience, David says, "don't worry about the experience — focus on the skills you have."

2. Don't overlook the skills developed in school: project management, interpersonal, communication, organization, research, writing. These are all very applicable skills that em-

ployers love.

3. Even if your LinkedIn account isn't bursting with information, David encourages you to remember that this still puts you ahead of those who aren't online.

Let others sell you

Stand out to potential employers by including brief testimonials on your resumé or cover letter. Even though these quotes might be brief, David says,

"One testimonial from another person is worth 10 claims made by you."

Remember, rejection isn't forever

Needless to say, not being chosen for a position is discouraging.

But to make the most out of the situation, David suggests always sending a hand-written thank you note.

Not only does this show the employer that you're a respectful person, they may call upon

you in the future or refer you to another company where they believe you'll be a great asset!

He also encourages young job hunters to remember that "persistence and understanding are a part of the process, and there are people behind this process — not machines!"

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Mariano Rivera trots to the mound to pitch the bottom half of the eighth inning in the MLB All-Star Game on Tuesday in New York. Rivera, who is retiring at the end of the season, was named the game's MVP following the American League's 3-0 win. MIKE EHRMANN/GETTY IMAGES

Rivera caps perfect All-Star Game career

MLB. Sandman leads AL pitchers in laying NL bats to rest; named match's MVP

Mariano Rivera pitched a perfect eighth inning in his final All-Star appearance, Toronto's Jose Bautista, J.J. Hardy and Jason Kipnis drove in runs to back a night of pulsating pitching, and the American League beat the National League 3-0 Tuesday night to stop a three-year losing streak.

On Tuesday	
3	0
AL	NL

Ten pitchers combined a three-hitter and the 43-year-old Rivera, who is retiring at the end of the season, remained unscathed in nine All-Star innings. Rivera won the MVP award.

The only older pitcher to appear in an All-Star game was 47-year-old Satchel Paige.

Rivera was left alone on the field for a 90-second standing ovation, waving his cap to the crowd and touching it to his heart as the other All-Stars watched from the dugout railing and applauded.

Bautista had a sacrifice fly in the fourth off Patrick Corbin that stopped the AL's 17-inning scoreless streak. Hardy added a run-scoring grounder in the fifth against Cliff Lee and Kipnis hit an RBI double in the eighth off Craig Kimbrell.

Matt Harvey and Max Scherzer dazzled with pitching at the start. Harvey threw two scoreless innings, striking out three, and Scherzer retired the side in order in his only frame.

The Yankees got a scare when Harvey hit Robinson Cano on the side of his right knee in the first, forcing him from the game. An X-ray was negative, and Cano was diagnosed with a bruised quadriceps that did not seem major.

A record crowd of 45,186 at Citi Field in New York took in the game. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

NHL

Penner returning to Anaheim

Dustin Penner has signed a one-year contract with the Anaheim Ducks.

Penner spent the past three seasons with the Los Angeles Kings. He had two goals and 12 assists last season and seven goals and 10 assists in 2011-12.

The 30-year-old left-winger had 32 goals and 31 assists during a career year in 2009-10 with the Edmonton Oilers. In 522 career NHL games, Penner has 137 goals and 138 assists.

Penner's deal is reportedly worth \$2 million US.

Penner spent his first two seasons with Anaheim.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Banned substances

Powell, Simpson trainer under investigation

Former 100-metre world-record holder Asafa Powell, Jamaican teammate Sherone Simpson and their Canadian physical trainer were formally placed under criminal investigation for allegedly violating Italy's doping laws, police said Tuesday.

The move came a day after Italian police confiscated unidentified substances in a raid on the hotel where the trio was staying in the northeastern town of Lignano Sabbiadoro after the athletes tested positive for banned stimulants.

The trainer is Christopher Xuereb of Toronto.

Police were still analyzing the substances seized to determine if they were legal or not.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hunter defends hitting prowess of PED users



David Ortiz, right, pours water on Torii Hunter during All-Star Game festivities on Tuesday in New York. BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

Torii Hunter was an All-Star rookie in 2002 when he robbed Barry Bonds of a home run and got a big bear hug from the slugger on the field. Now he's a veteran voice in a clubhouse with a record number of newcomers.

The always loquacious, ever-smiling 37-year-old Detroit Tigers outfielder is enjoying his role as a five-time All-Star selection.

With possible suspensions from the Biogenesis investigation looming over the game, Hunter defended Alex Rodriguez and other players who

have been implicated in drug scandals over the years.

"I know how hard this game really is. I don't care what they did or who did or whatever, Barry Bonds all those guys," Hunter said Tuesday before the game at Citi Field. "Still impressive to hit. Still got to hit the ball."

On the lighter side, Hunter has his favourite All-Stars. Wacky All-Stars, that is.

"David Ortiz, for sure, craziest forever. He sits here and holds court and tells all the jokes," Hunter said. "He is one of the funniest guys in All-Star

game history."

There's also: "Ichiro (Suzuki). Manny (Ramirez). Ah, Manny. Forgot about Manny. Ooh, boy, he was crazy. Can't tell you the stories. Pedro (Martinez) was funny. He put bubble gum in everybody's hats."

So what did Bonds say to Hunter 11 years ago when he scooped up the kid near second base in Milwaukee?

"Good catch, kid — high five," Hunter said "I went high, he went low and picked me up. I tried to hold him down. Too strong."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DeLaet at home on British Open links

Golf. Lone Canadian at Muirfield undeterred by Scottish climate

Having grown up in Saskatchewan, Graham DeLaet isn't bothered by a little wind on the golf course — and wind surely is among the weather treasures to be found this week at Muirfield.

The cold, slanting rain that tends to arrive at some point during a British Open? He's seen that at home, too.

"We get that, too. But we just go inside," the Weyburn man cracked.

Barely a week after finding out his world ranking had earned him a spot in a major championship for the first time in his promising career, the only Canadian playing here in



Graham DeLaet GETTY IMAGES

Gullane this week was greeted in a familiar Scottish way at practice.

"I hit a 5-iron farther than I hit a driver," he said, laughing at the wind that arrives, in varying directions, at each of Muir-

Mixed emotions on Muirfield

"I don't know if it's something I want to play every single day; it just eats you up."

Weyburn, Sask., native Graham DeLaet on the unpredictable conditions of the British Open.

field's 18 holes. "But I grew up in Saskatchewan, so it's a pretty average wind for me."

DeLaet arrives with a terrific set of statistics in his back pocket for his tee time Thursday. He's 65th-ranked in the world and leads the PGA Tour in scoring average (69.99) and greens in regulation (72 per cent) and is second in total driving and par-five scoring average. He's knocking on the door of his first win; he hasn't been out of the top 30 in his past seven starts, including third at the Travelers Championship last month, and with more than \$1.5 million earned is 28th in

cheques cashed.

Ben Curtis nailed a major in his first appearance at the Open 10 years ago, so it can be done, longshot though it is. At least DeLaet comes in with some links golf experience, having played a British Amateur at Royal St. George's and a couple of Dunhill Cups as a pro, including last year.

"You need your imagination and (need to) hit the ball solid. Fairways are going to be key, obviously, staying out of that fescue," he said after playing the front nine at Muirfield. "It's fun. A different style of golf."

TO STAR NEWS SERVICE



Costa, great success. Is nice!

A fan chases Rui Costa as he attacks the breakaway group en route to winning the 16th stage of the Tour de France on Tuesday in Gap, France. The Portuguese cyclist was 42 seconds faster than second-place finisher Christophe Riblon. Meanwhile, Chris Froome retained the yellow jersey. DOUG PENSINGER/GETTY IMAGES

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2014 Mercedes-Benz CLA



ALL PHOTOS WHEELBASEMEDIA.COM

Review. A new Mercedes for \$35,000?! Here it is ...

MALCOLM GUNN
wheelbasemedia.com

It might be hard to believe, but it appears as though Mercedes-Benz has caught the rest of the automotive world napping.

This fall, the automaker will introduce a front-wheel-drive sedan to North America that almost anyone pinning for a loaded-up Honda Accord, Ford Fusion or Toyota Camry can afford. But wait, as TV infomercial hawkers are fond of saying, "there's more". The 2014 CLA's sporty body cladding and other trim makes it appear far from stripped-down basic transportation, although with a sticker price that's a few ticks below 35 grand, it's priced like one.

Other than being pulled by the front wheels (with all-wheel-drive optional), what's most unusual about the CLA is that it doesn't offer the kind of roomy practicality that's a given when it comes to nearly every mid-size sedan. That's because Mercedes stylists drew their inspiration from the larger CLS-class faux coupe, a low-slung, wind-cheating luxury ride that remains one of the most imitated models on the planet (see Aston Martin Rapide, Volkswagen CC, Audi A7 and Ford Fusion). Things get much simpler when it comes to powertrain offerings.

The first-to-arrive CLA250 that heads here this September from its home base in Hungary

2014 Mercedes-Benz CLA

- **Type.** Four-door, front-/all-wheel-drive mid-size sedan
- **Engines (hp).** 2.0-litre DOHC I4, turbocharged (208, 355 CLA45 AMG)
- **Transmissions.** 7-speed automatic with paddle-shift controls.
- **Base price (incl. destination)** \$34,800

Interior & Technology

Both driver and front-seat passenger are treated to greater comfort, but the one discordant note is an infotainment/nav screen that protrudes above the fresh-air vents as if it were an afterthought. You also get plenty of tiny push-button controls to play with that will require practice to master.

Fuel economy

To assist in the fuel-economy department, the CLA250 uses technology that shuts off the engine when the car comes to a stop, such as at a red light. Once the brake pedal is released, the CLA starts right back up.

Design

The CLA's aero design looks are pencil-sharp, but you should think twice if transporting four or more adults is on your agenda. Even though the CLA is physically larger than the previously base C-class sedan, function follows form and the form in this case is a lowered roofline that restricts rear headroom.

comes with a turbocharged 2.0-litre four-cylinder engine that produces 208 horsepower and 258 pound-feet of torque at an engine speed that's just above idle. This helps propel the car to 100 km/h from rest in a quick 6.7 seconds, as recorded by Mercedes-Benz.

When the launch party has concluded, M-B will ship the CLA45 AMG to North America. This performance model also features a 2.0-litre turbo-four, only the block has been strengthened and a higher-output turbocharger produces nearly twice the boost of the CLA250's. The result is 355 horsepower and 322 pound-feet of torque. The AMG is expected to shorten the CLA's zero-100 km/h times by about two seconds.

Both models use a seven-speed dual-clutch automated manual transmission with paddle shifters, but the AMG adds 4MATIC all-wheel-drive that sends up to 50 per cent of the torque to the rear wheels, as needed. 4MATIC will be included on the CLA250's options list later in the model year.



The CLA250 is equipped with the typically stylish Mercedes dash.

Already that list is a long one, even though base CLA250 models will arrive with plenty of content, including a sport suspension, Attention Assist that warns the driver should they nod off at the wheel. Collision Prevention Assist warns when a forward collision appears probable and will apply the brakes if the driver doesn't.

Of the various equipment groupings available, the Premium Package is expected to be one of the most popular since it adds dual-zone climate control, heated front seats, auto

dimming mirrors, a garage door opener and a premium Harmon-Kardon surround-sound system. Much of this equipment and then some will be added to the CLA45 AMG, but will also be reflected in the car's list price that's expected to nudge the \$60,000 mark.

For those with thinner wallets, the Mercedes-Benz CLA250 should do just fine. Its show-stealing shape is practical enough for singles or small families. It might even turn competing sedan marketers into copycats.

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Top sedans give the trunk the boot

Autopilot. Making the back of the car discreet, stylish and aerodynamic appears to be the trend in the high-end market



AUTO PILOT
Mike Goetz
drive@metronews.ca

Darwin's Theory of Evolution not only applies to flora and fauna, but also to automotive design. When an automotive design mutation shows up that aids the survival of a particular model, the mutation is selected to be passed on to the next generation of vehicles.

One such successful mutation we're suddenly seeing passed on to more and more vehicles is the four-door sedan with a "no-

trunk look."

Sedans have historically had what designers call a three-box layout; one box for the engine, another box for the occupants, and another box for the trunk. Now we're seeing four-door sedans in a one-box or two-box layout. Trunks are being incorporated into the main box. They no longer have a box of their own. I don't know if that makes trunks sad, but we should probably take it easy on them for a while, just to be nice.

Three factors are pushing trunk design in this direction.

Aerodynamics

The higher and shorter you can make the trunk lid, the better it is for aerodynamics, and aerodynamics nets you lots of good stuff, like fuel efficiency and high-speed stability.

Capacity and space efficiency

The long and low

trunk stuck on like an appendage, is not as space efficient as a taller, shorter, and squarer trunk that has also expropriated some of the occupant box.

Aesthetics

Four-door sedans with small trunks, like the new Mercedes-Benz CLA, or four-door sedans with a hatch-like lift-up tailgate, like the Audi A7, just look sleeker.

And with this development we have to evolve the terminology as well. Automakers seem disinclined to even call them "sedans," sensing that the term might have too much old-world baggage (in their trunks and elsewhere). Mercedes-Benz refers to the CLS-Class a four-door coupe, and the full name of the A7 is the Audi A7 Sportback.

Commenting on this development in his blog, Luca Ciferri, the European cor-



The Audi A7 coupe's trunk merges into the rest of the vehicle and increase the car's aerodynamic capabilities.

respondent for the trade publication, Automotive News, mused that, "as these new interpretations of the classic sedan move from being one-offs to full-fledged model lines it is easy to see that we are entering the post-sedan era."

I think it will be an exciting era. Maybe not as exciting as the post-apocalyptic era, you know, the one with all those zombies, but things should be happen-



The new Mercedes CLA250 has a very discreet trunk. BOTH PHOTOS HANDOUT

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Horoscopes

Aries

March 21 - April 20

There are so many positive factors at work in your life that you would be a fool not to set your sights high. Uranus, planet of changes, urges you to be adventurous. But do you really need encouragement?

Taurus

April 21 - May 21

Not even a Taurus can be confident all the time and there will be times today when you fear the worst. Take a long, hard look at your life but don't change things just because you're feeling low.

Gemini

May 22 - June 21

You will be spreading your opinions over the next 24 hours. Not everyone will agree with you, of course, but because you say it with such confidence it's unlikely they will argue with you.

Cancer

June 22 - July 23

Employers are on your side now, so think how you would like to move up in the world then let them know you are ready. If in doubt, aim to do something completely different to what you usually do.

Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

Travel is very much on the cards today. You don't need to have a specific destination in mind, just get up and go where your fancy takes you and you are guaranteed to have fun.

Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

Get your financial house in order. Now is the perfect time to make changes in your cash flow habits. Be aware of how wasteful you have been.

Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

You will face challenges today but you don't have to face them alone. Loved ones are always there for you and will stand by your side if you ask. Chances are you will come through unscathed.

Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

Cosmic activity in the work area of your chart means others expect you to deliver. The last thing you want is to let them down. Pace yourself sensibly and get it done.

Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

You may be in an assertive mood but don't pick fights with people just for fun. It's good to let off steam but it's not good if you end up making enemies of people.

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

Creative matters will go well today but you must not neglect affairs of the heart. Someone needs to be reminded of your passion and commitment, most likely because you have been a bit distant lately.

Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

You have plenty to say and you could cause a bit of friction if you come on too strong. Sometimes it pays to steer clear of facts that others may not want to hear.

Pisces

Feb. 20 - March 20

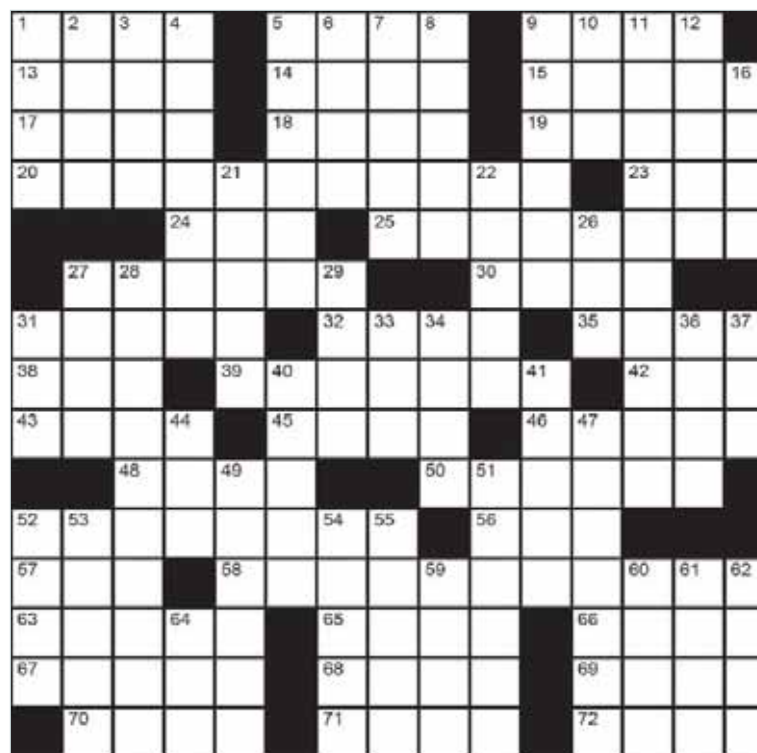
Positive cosmic activity in the money area of your chart will give you the courage to make much-needed changes. You may have to cut back on luxuries for a week or two.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

Across

- Ms. Helgenberger
- Monsieur Le Pew
- Valley
- Mideast chieftain, variantly
- Q. "Do you prefer FM radio ____?" A. "Both, actually."
- Verbal tests
- The Ramayana heroine
- Certain cracker
- Surrealist artist Max
- Toxic clean-up togs: 2 wds.
- ____ casting
- Gladiator's 1002
- Glass Tiger lead singer: 2 wds.
- Strong military city of ancient Greece
- Decorative case
- Sound loudly, as a radio
- Singer/songwriter Lisa
- Company bosses, collectively [abbr.]
- Mouth, slang-style
- Nuclear ____
- Bit of Beatles: "Isn't ____ bit like..."
- She sheeps
- Non-vegetarian fare
- Band of eight
- Value
- Have ____ of energy
- Who The Band backed: 2 wds.
- Riddle-me-____



- "...am right ____ am wrong..." - The Beatles
- ____ and Immigration Canada
- "Blame It ____" (1984) starring Michael Caine
- First name letter,

Down

- Bangers and ____ (Pub serving)
- "What ____ mind reader?"
- Crackers brand
- It's about sentences, etc.
- Sticky notes brand
- Ancient Greece's love god
- The Taming of the Shrew setting
- Internet mode of communication
- Platinum Blonde hit: "____ Really Matter"
- ETA part, for short

- First Nation concern: 2 wds.
- Vintage dairy products cow
- Goulash
- Broadcaster
- Billy Blanks fitness system: 2 wds.
- Fee-fi-fo-____
- Shredded cabbage
- Alternate name of Saskatchewan's provincial tree: 2 wds.
- Winglike parts
- "Adieu."
- Wood sorrel
- Songstress Ms. James
- Encounter
- Rat-a-____
- Ms. Sande of recent hit "Next to Me"
- 1431: French city where Joan of Arc was executed
- Down
- BC locale of Columbia Brewery
- Mogul
- Cape ____ Island
- Barbarian
- "Ripley's Believe It" finisher: 2 wds.
- "Decor" finishing?
- Ten-er - One-er = What-er?
- Tube-shaped pasta
- Beyonce ballad
- Persia, nowadays
- Remunerations
- Drink chiller

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku



Today

24°/17°

Partly cloudy

Thursday

25°/15°

Rain

90%

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